



State of Utah

Department of Natural Resources

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands

A. JOEL FRANDSEN
*State Forester/
Division Director*

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY R. HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

NEWS RELEASE

October 3, 2005

Contact: Jim Springer (801) 538-5324
Kelly Allen (435) 757-8332

GOATS AID WILDLAND FIRE PREPAREDNESS

More than 800 head of Boer-mixed goats will be doing their part to help the Causey Estates Homeowners Association prepare their community to withstand the devastation of wildland fire. The goats are being used to graze a 75-foot wide, 5,000 feet long fuel break that will provide fire protection for the community. Fuel breaks slow the progress of a wildland fire as it approaches a community.

"The goats will pretty much clear the area of gambol oak, sage brush, grass and forbs," said Kelly Allen, project manager for the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. "Due to the difficult nature of the terrain, the goats will do the job easier and at less expense than if we used a hand-crew to do the clearing."

Funding for the project is from a National Fire Plan grant and is matched by the lot owners as they develop defensible space around their individual cabins. Defensible space is merely thinning vegetation and taking other steps to lessen the possibility of fire reaching the home, giving firefighters the chance to save the property.

"Using goats to do the work costs \$38,000 as opposed to \$200,000 or more if we used a hand-crew," noted Allen. "It's an efficient and economical method to create a fuel break."

The goats have been on site since September 15 and should be finished mid October. The project is about one-half mile south of the Causey Reservoir on land owned by Rocking HR Ranches, LLC. The fuel breaks are located in the best place to help limit the spread of fires originating from the Causey Reservoir area.

###